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REMARKS

Claims 1-44 were pending, with claims 1-30 and 38 having been withdrawn by the Patent Office from examination. By this Amendment, claim 39 and unexamined claims 1-30 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, claim 31 has been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter, and new claim 45 has been added. Claims 31-45 would be pending upon entry of this Amendment, with claim 31 being in independent form.

Claims 31, 32 and 34-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) and § 102(b) as purportedly anticipated by Sugimura (JP 2003-53953). Claims 33, 37 and 39-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Sugimura. Claim 44 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Sugimura in view of Maki et al. (US 2002/0126193).

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is allowable over the cited art, for at least the reason that the cited art does not disclose or suggest the aspects of the present application that the state detector is provided on an upstream side of the carriage in the paper feed direction, to detect presence of the recording medium along a moving line (that is, in main scanning direction) of said carriage, and the state detector detects the edge of the recording medium in the main-scanning direction for each main-scanning of the carriage so as to determine a position of the edge of the recording medium used in the printing operation of the subsequent line. Such aspects (for example, discussed in portions of the specification corresponding to Figs. 28-31 of the present application), enable the state detector to monitor the *width* of a printing line subsequent to the current printing line so that the subsequent printing operation is performed based on the width of the print paper obtained in the previous printing operation, and thus, even in a bidirectional printing, the printing operation can be performed while monitoring the width of

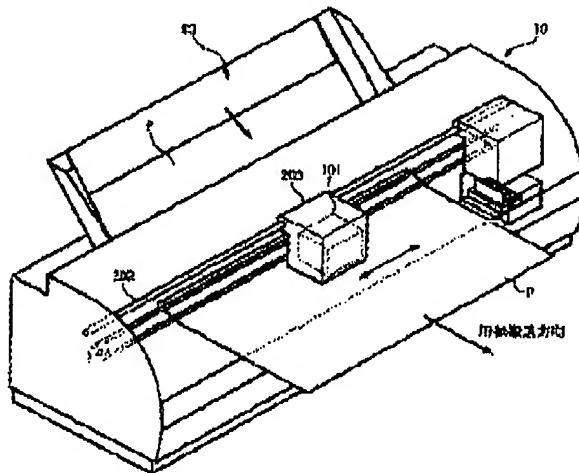
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the print paper for each printing line.

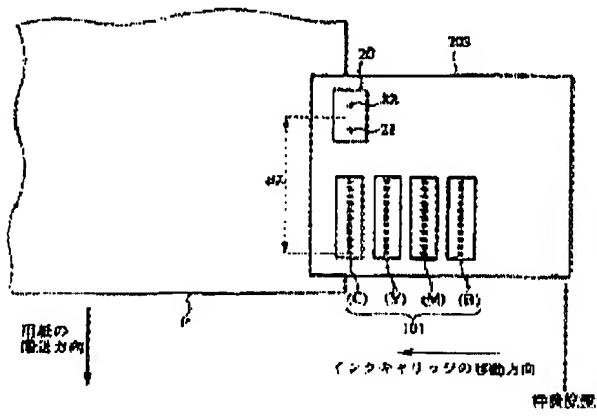
Sugimura, as understood by applicant, proposes an inkjet printer 10, as shown in figure 1 (reproduced below) of Sugimura, including a carriage 203 bearing inkjet heads 101 and moving back and forth in a direction orthogonal to a paper feed direction.

【図1】



In the inkjet printer 10 of Sugimura, a sensor 20 is provided on the carriage 203 to detect a leading edge of recording paper P, as shown in figure 8 (reproduced below).

【図8】



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When the recording paper P is detected by the sensor 20 of Sugimura, the recording paper P is moved rearward once and printing is performed by the ink head 101 with consideration of a time lag due to a distance d2 between the center of the sensor 20 and the edge of the inkjet heads 101. Thus, the sensor 20 of Sugimura merely detects a leading edge of the recording paper as it is being fed in the paper feeding direction, in a current main-scanning position.

Stated another way, the sensor 20 of Sugimura is for detecting the recording paper P in a conveyance direction of the recording paper P, and does **NOT** detect an edge of the recording paper (that is, for determining a width) in the main-scanning direction.

Further, the sensor 20 of Sugimura does **NOT** detect an edge of the recording paper in a *subsequent* main-scanning.

Sugimura states that the printing may be performed while detecting the recording paper P in a second or later scanning operation. However, this merely indicates the detection of an edge of the recording paper at the currently scanning position, and does not disclose or suggest a detection of the recording paper at a subsequent main-scanning position.

The cited references, including Maki, simply do not disclose or suggest the above-mentioned aspects of the present application.

Applicant submits that the cited art, even when considered along with common sense and common knowledge to one skilled in the art, does **NOT** render unpatentable the above-mentioned aspects of the present application.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 31 and the claims depending therefrom are allowable over the cited art.

In view of the remarks hereinabove, applicant submits that the application is now allowable, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

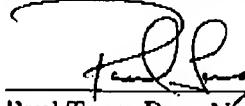
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If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any required fees in connection with this amendment, and to credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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